

**Farmers' Clubs—Breeding for Beef and Milk Combined.**—Having seen various items in your paper concerning farmers' clubs and co-operation among farmers for various purposes, I thought I might write you for information, as we contemplate forming a club in our neighborhood, first to purchase a thoroughbred bull of good breed, and also for other purposes. I would like to ask you a few questions if you will be kind enough to answer. 1. What is the best strain to cross with a lot of what some would call scrub cows, to retain as far as possible the milking qualities they already have, and build a larger frame for beef? 2. What would be the cost of feeding and attending a bull for a year, or what would be the best rations, and what quantity to feed daily, summer and winter, for a yearling bull kept for service? Or if we club together and purchase one, what would be a fair allowance to the one that kept him? We have had one meeting, and there is a fair show for a farmers' club. Please write or answer through the ADVOCATE as you see fit, and give us all the information you can, which will be thankfully received.—B. B., Teeterville, Ont.

[We send you a copy of the August issue of the ADVOCATE containing the constitution and by-laws of the Middlesex Agricultural Council, which you can easily change to suit your circumstances. We also send copy of the ADVOCATE for December, 1884, containing constitution and by-laws better adapted to small clubs. The regulations in the December issue have been adopted by various clubs in the Dominion. We do not believe in putting beef and milk into one cow; but if you want a general purpose cow you may use the Booth strain of Shorthorns upon your stock, but the Cruickshank strain would be better, it being half beef and half milk. The Booth is almost exclusively a beefing strain, while the Bates is noted for its milk. The cost of attendance should not be much for a farmer who has other stock to which he pays special attention, as all the work could be done at the same time, no extra attention being paid to the bull, and if the farmer has not much work to do in winter, the charges should be very moderate. But if he has to buy feed which he does not require for his other stock, and if much of the other work is extra, the charge will be more. In the summer extra labor would likely be more, as he should not be allowed to run at large, and green fodder should be carried to him, so that unless the fodder is also carried to his cows, the labor would be extra. In winter feed him all the good hay he will eat, with six to eight lbs. of a mixture of meal, oil cake and bran daily, with a few roots. Change the ration every three or four days, and if you find him getting too fat slack off, and always give plenty of exercise. In summer give green fodder, with five or six lbs. of meal daily. The best way to get at the cost is to weigh what he eats, say for one week, and charge the market price for the food consumed, which will amount to about 10 to 12 cents per day in summer, and 12 to 14 in winter. We cordially wish your club success, and we will help you all we can.]

**Red and Alsike Clover.**—Would you be kind enough to answer me through your valuable columns whether it would be advisable to mix red and Alsike clover for alternate seeding, and what you would consider the best mixture of both grasses and clovers, some thinking that red and Alsike clovers would not do well together, as one would kill the other. Please give me your advice on this subject.—W. J. S., International Bridge, Ont.

[For a hay crop they would not do well together, as the red ripens about two weeks earlier than the Alsike, and the latter out-lasts the former. Timothy and Alsike ripen together for a haying crop, and red clover ripens with orchard grass and should be sown with it. For the best permanent pasture mixtures, read our prize essay.]

**Spring Fair and Stock Market of Essex.**—For the past three years a spring fair and stock market has been held on the Fair Grounds at Essex Centre under the auspices of the Colchester North Agricultural Society. The enterprise has been attended with increasing success each year. The County Council has this year granted the sum of \$75.00 to assist the directors in making the enterprise more successful. At a meeting of the directors held on the 15th inst., it was decided to hold the spring fair and stock market of Essex on Tuesday, April 27th, 1886. It was also decided to admit all stock, seed, implements, &c., brought for sale free of charge. It was further decided to prepare an advertising catalogue to be circulated in the county and elsewhere, and that any person intending to offer stock for sale on that day may have the same advertised in the said catalogue free of charge by sending, not later than the 21st of March, a description of such animals to the secretary. Prize lists and sale catalogues will be sent on application after April 1st.—W. H. RUSSELL, Sec.-Treas., Essex Centre, Ont.

**Hauling Manure in Winter.**—Please state in the ADVOCATE which is the most economical method of applying manure for next year's crop. Would you advise drawing out on the land and spreading broadcast as hauled at this season of the year, or draw into a large heap and let remain till spring, when wanted?—S. K., Hickson.

[If you piled your manure into heaps in the barnyard, allowing it to ferment as fast as made, the manure made before New Year will now be in a good condition to haul and spread on the land, either on the snow or on the frozen ground, but if it is unfermented and mixed with straw, you should allow it to ferment, either in the barn-yard or in the field, before spreading it on the ground, especially on light soils. The most economical and least wasteful method is to draw it right out from the stable and spread it at once without fermentation; but in this case you should use cut straw, sawdust and dry earth or muck for bedding.]

**Marlboro' Raspberry.**—Could you tell me where I can get some Marlboro' Raspberry plants?—L. L., St. Foye Road, Que.

[Write to the fruit growers who advertise in the ADVOCATE.]

**Duty on Butter and Eggs—The Jerseys.**—1. What is the American duty on butter and eggs? 2. Is the price of Jersey stock likely to rise or fall? 3. A cow that has had one calf has gone dry in one test. Can it be remedied before next calving? G. H., Upper Stewiacke, N. S.

[1. Eggs, free; butter, 4 cents per lb. 2. The present tendency of all thoroughbred stock is downward, and there is no telling what shape the next live stock boom will take. It is likely, however, that in future the breeds will be sold more on their merits, as there is a strong demand for honest records. If then the Jerseys prove themselves to be the best for butter production, their price will go up, as our butter industry is destined to make rapid strides. 3. It is too late to do anything for your cow. The loss of one test may not affect her milking qualities.]

**Permanent Pastures.**—Will you kindly inform us through the FARMER'S ADVOCATE which are the best seeds to sow on land to make permanent pasture. I have 30 acres of high rolling land. We wish to seed in the spring, and wish to have it well covered with grass to save from washing in the spring. Yours truly, J. T., Franklin, Ont.

[Select from the clover and grasses mentioned in our prize essay published in this issue. The best grass for land that is subject to overflowing is water meadow grass.]

**What is the Shorthorn Coming to?**—One of the Model Farm professors sent out to lecture at farmers' institutes showed what science had done for the Shorthorn. He stated that science found the Teeswater a scraggy, scrubby, scrawny beast. Look at the Shorthorn of to-day—the ideal of a bovine. His beef will satisfy the appetite of the daintiest epicure; the only bovine that will pay the farmer to raise, &c., &c. Thomas Hall's Teeswater cow called Trips gave nine gallons (ale and beer measure) per day on pasture alone without any other food. Abortion was almost unknown, except from injury. Collins' white steer, that was carried about the country in a caravan for exhibition, shows that they had good feeding qualities and good constitutions. Collins said he would not keep a cow that would not give one sovereign's worth of butter a week. The spirit of the Teeswater is entirely bred out of their Shorthorn by inbreeding and pampering and stuffing them with meal, oil cake, sugar, molasses and the various compounds of the apothecary shop. The Shorthorn cows do not often give enough milk to raise their calves; they lose their calves wholesale by abortion, and the extent to which disease exists in the Shorthorn is alarming, and is transmitted to the human family by partaking of milk from tuberculous animals, and using their flesh for food. I sent the above article to a Live Stock Journal, and the editor said it was got up in the interest of the Model Farm, and he would not publish the article because I was attacking the Model Farm. If that institution can't stand the criticism of an old bushwhacker the sooner it is dynamited the better.—W. C. S., New Hamburg, Ont.

[The Model Farm professors must say something for a living, else their occupation would be gone, and unless they make a boom of some kind, they fail to attract attention. The boasted "improvement" in the Shorthorn is only to catch the eye; the genuine qualities of the most aristocratic strains are depreciating every year, both for beef and milk. The highest skill of the artist is also employed in pandering to the depraved tastes of the public. Woe to science and art if this is their proudest achievements in the live stock business. Those "apothecary" rations are also to be blamed for nine-tenths of the diseases, some of which are threatening the lives of the human family. Of course, you could not expect the said editor to publish your article. He can't afford to publish the truth, for such would be his financial ruin.]

**The "Scrubs" Defended—Spreading Manure in Winter—Studying Politics to Remove the Agricultural Depression.**—From all the institute meetings, and from almost every other source, I hear that the "scrub bull must go;" in other words, that our Canadian breed of cattle must be given up. That may be right if beef is our object, but I think it is wrong if milk is what we want. I have four pedigree Ayrshire cows and five high grade Durhams, some half-breeds of each kind, and a good many common Canadians, and for producing milk cheaply I will take the Canadian cow in preference to any breed I have had experience with. From my boyhood until thirty years of age, I was well acquainted with the Jerseys, and last fall's tests did not place the Holsteins very high in milking qualities. I have one Canadian cow at present that will beat any cow in my herd for ten months' milking. Milk being my object, why should I not raise a bull from that cow and from a young bull now in my stable? Here is his pedigree:—Sire and grand sire from first-class milkers: dam, g. dam, and z. g. dam also from superior milkers. Kindly give us your opinion on this subject, also any suggestions you may have to offer. I would beg to state to you that the field off which I lost some of the strength of the manure spread on the snow was a well drained field. It consists of eight acres and has five leading drains, also a good many branch drains. I do not agree with you that "the same shower that melts the manure will melt the soil." In my fields the frost is generally from six to twenty inches deep, and until it is all out, clear water rises to the surface and evaporates; and until that process stops, clay land will absorb nothing. You are quite right about putting out long straw in manure in winter. It has often given me quite an amount of trouble, and should all be put through the cutting box. It does not give any trouble when spread on grass land. Last February, when my cows began to come in, I used a large quantity of long straw for bedding and put the manure on a worn-out five-acre meadow, which I could not conveniently break up. Pasture came in good and we kept it at field for hay, and I think had fully three tons to the acre off it. I beg to return thanks to the "Farmer's Son, Edwardsville," for his letter, and hope every reader of the ADVOCATE will make a study of it. We have to sell our wheat, oats, barley, beef, pork, mutton, cheese and butter in a market where we must compete with all the world. Therefore, let us deeply study in what way politics can help us.—SOD, Belmont, Ont.

[Our suggestion is that your bull has a grand pedigree, and we are pleased that you have registered it in the ADVOCATE. We hope other farmers will follow your example. We charge no fee, and we are not supported by Government funds. If the farmer does not know how to build up a good dairy herd from the material he has, "registered" stock won't help him. A farmer should never buy high-priced stock till he learns how to feed and breed. Breed from the best, paying no attention to ancestral "records," even if they have not been falsified. If the dairy qualities can be traced three or four generations back, that is pedigree enough. We advocate honest investigation, leaving the farmers to use their judgment, and not taxing them because they refuse to buy aristocratic stock. We have often spread manure on the snow, both on drained and undrained soil, and have experienced no wasteful results. However, as there is difference of opinion, we are conducting an accurate experiment. We have a piece of undrained loam, gently sloping to the North-west. About a month ago we manured it heavily, part on the snow and part on the frozen ground. In spring we intend to make accurate observations as to the waste. If the rainfall is heavy we anticipate some loss; otherwise we expect none. If your land froze last fall before the water was drained out, your case is very exceptional, and this must have accounted for your waste. If farmers intend to compete with other countries they must study and practice the principles of agriculture; politics cannot help them.]

**Feeding Pumpkins.**—What is the proper way to feed pumpkins and squashes?—R. G., Cross Roads, N. S.

[Cut them in long slices with a large knife. If cut in short angular pieces the cattle are apt to choke themselves.]

In our last issue, page 50, in answering a question by I. J. S., relating to cure for spotted apples, the printer made a mistake in calling copperas sulphate of copper instead of sulphate of iron. We did not observe the mistake until it was too late to make the correction.

In this issue several letters remain unanswered because the writers have not complied with our "NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS."